



Friday, April 27: We said goodbye to Venice and hello to our car again. Heading southwest towards Florence, we decided to visit the hill town of San Gimignano first.

San Gimignano is a beautiful little town with lots of tall towers. We spent the afternoon walking around the town, and stopped for a gelato at the Piazza della Cisterna. After dinner, we headed for Florence.





We crossed the Ponte Vecchio to visit the Boboli Gardens, stopped for gelato, of course, and then headed for the Uffizi Gallery late in the afternoon. After an exhausting and exhilarating day, we found a fine restaurant for dinner where Nick once again exclaimed "This is the **BEST** food I ever had in my whole life!"



Saturday, April 28: We arrived much too late in Florence the night before, and had quite a bit of trouble finding our hotel and a place to park our car. But Saturday dawned bright and clear and we had a mission! We visited the Baptistry first, then the Accademia to see Michelangelo's David.



Sunday, April 29: Another glorious spring day! We left Florence early and headed south into Tuscany to visit several small hill towns. First on the list was Bagno Vignoni, a small town built around a hot spring.

The next town we visited was Pienza. There were so many tourists in town, we couldn't get a table in a restaurant. So we made an impromptu picnic lunch out of prosciutto sandwiches from the deli and our daily gelato ... which always tastes better while being eaten on the steps of a 16th century church.





After Pienza, we headed for Assisi.

On the way we took a short detour and discovered a very pretty little hilltop town called Montefollonico. We seemed to be the only people in town!



Monday, April 30: We woke up in Assisi, and started our day at the basilica of St. Francis to view the incredible Giotto frescos.

Assisi is a very steep town, full of steps and plenty of tiny streets. It's always amazing to see a car or truck coming your way!





We spent Nick & Bettie's whole last day in Italy exploring Assisi. It had been a wonderful two weeks together and we were sad to see it come to an end. The good company, great sights and delicious food will stay in our memories forever.

We left Assisi late in the day, drove two hours to the Rome airport and had a final farewell seaside dinner in Fiumicino. Gary & Sharon were driving south towards Sicily the next day to continue their trip for another two weeks!

